

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

May 23, 2014

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Pritzker:


Thank you for your response to my April 16th letter regarding implementation of the RESTORE Act (P.L. 112-141). Unfortunately, I am again disappointed to hear that the Department of Commerce continues to demonstrate a lack of understanding of the intent of the law, the Chair's role, and the delicate balance struck between the competing interests that allowed this legislation to become law.

With \$800 million already committed to the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund, the Department of Commerce should act with deliberate speed to develop a project and program list for the Council's Allocation, while *simultaneously* working to approve a regulation for the Oil Spill Restoration Impact Allocation and the State Expenditure Plans. The project and program list should be based on the very clear statutory restoration priorities as outlined in the law.

It has been four years since the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and almost two years since passage of the RESTORE Act, and the millions of people who live and work along the Gulf Coast have already waited far too long for large-scale restoration. The Federal government is glad to take the nearly \$7 billion we send from offshore Louisiana to the Federal Treasury each year, yet is dragging its feet to distribute the money Congress has authorized to help save our coast. We should not let bureaucratic red tape get in the way of coastal restoration.

As the lead author of the RESTORE Act, I am committed to ensuring that its intended benefits for Louisiana are achieved through timely, thoughtful implementation. I look forward to discussing specific options with you for implementing the Act more comprehensively without any further delay.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
U.S. Senator